

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please **replace** the abstract of the specification with the following abstract:

The present invention relates to a solid supported catalyst usable for the polymerization of conjugated dienes, to a process for the preparation of said catalyst and to a process for the polymerization of conjugated dienes using said catalyst. The solid supported catalyst according to the invention comprises the reaction product of

a) a complex represented by formula $M(Ar)(AlX_4)_3$, where M is a rare earth metal

AB selected from among the metals having an atomic number of ~~between~~ from 57 ~~and~~ to 71, inclusive in Mendeleyev's periodic table of elements, Ar is an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent, Al is aluminum and X is a ~~halogen~~ selected from ~~among~~ the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine, and

b) a solid support comprising at least one inorganic metal oxide compound. The invention also provides a polymerization process for conjugated dienes in an inert hydrocarbon solvent in which the said catalyst is used to polymerize the conjugated dienes in the presence of an activator compound comprising a trialkylaluminum or dialkylaluminum hydride.
